



State of Tennessee  
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**SENATE FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
RECORDS, 1971-1986**

**RECORD GROUP 100**

Processed by:  
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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Tennessee State Senate relies significantly on committees for much of the actual work of lawmaking. Under the leadership of the chairman, it is the duty of the standing committee members to study assigned bills, conduct public hearings, and by a majority vote recommend passage to the entire membership of the Senate. Perhaps the most important of the standing committees is the Finance, Ways and Means Committee. This committee is responsible for determining the fiscal impact of legislation, along with the annual appropriations funding bill which determines the budget for state expenditures.

Record Group 100 deals with the Finance, Ways and Means Committee, covering the years 1971 through 1986. Records of this collection include the committee papers of State Senator Douglas Henry, Jr., chairman of the committee. Another important aspect of the collection is the large amount of constituent correspondence covering a wide range of issues and topics of concern to the general public. This latter material can be extremely important in the light it sheds into the views and opinions of a well-known state legislator, as well as his constituents.

To a lesser, but no less important extent are included the constituent correspondence of State Senator Leonard Dunavant and former State Senator Lowell Thomas, both members of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee. One small section deals with the select subcommittees established by Finance, Ways and Means, such as the Bingo Public Hearings, the Legislative Salary Study Committee and the Home Education Study Committee.

## **FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman:** Douglas Henry, Jr. Represents Senate District 21. House members of the 79<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Senate member of the 87<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 91<sup>st</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup>, and 95<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies.

**Vice-Chairman:** Leonard C. Dunavant, represents Senate District 32. Senate member of the 88<sup>th</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 91<sup>st</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, 94<sup>th</sup>, and 95<sup>th</sup> general Assemblies.

**Secretary:** Robert Rochelle

**Members:**

Ben Atchley  
John N. Ford  
Milton Hamilton  
Joe McKnight  
J.R. McNally  
Carl R. Moore

**Former Member:** Lowell Thomas, represented Senate District 27. Senate Member of the 85<sup>th</sup>, 86<sup>th</sup>, 87<sup>th</sup>, 88<sup>th</sup>, 89<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup>, 91<sup>st</sup>, 92<sup>nd</sup>, 93<sup>rd</sup>, and 94<sup>th</sup>, General Assemblies.

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